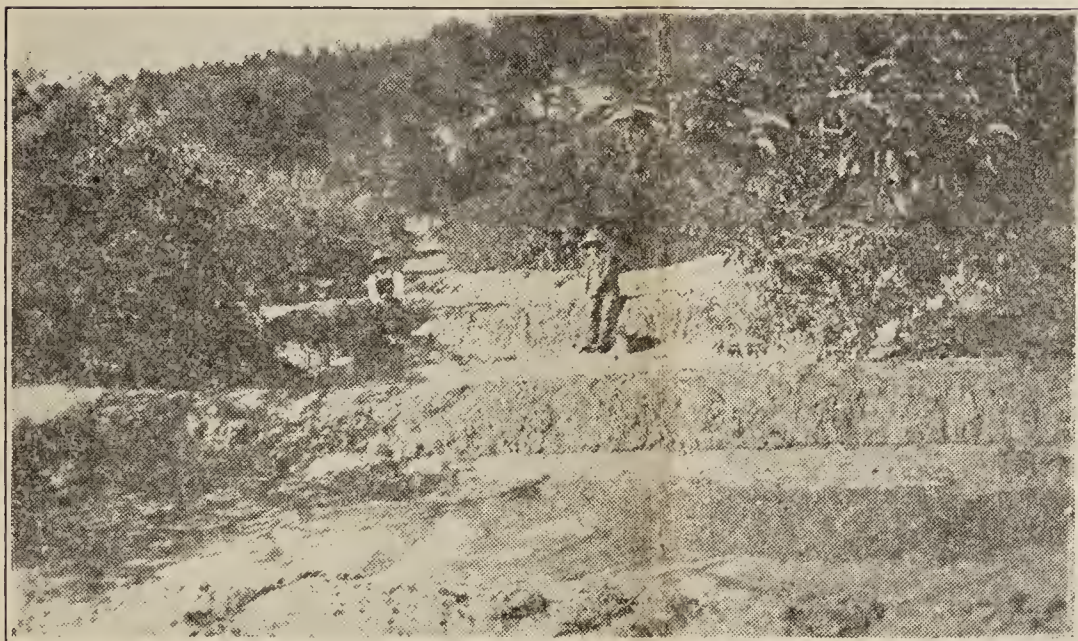


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*Price List***NURSERY STOCK****JOHN ROBERTSON'S NURSERY***Hot Springs, South Dakota*

This View Shows Contour of Ditches or Terraces

We took this place as a Homestead in June 1892. After getting a few acres of the best laying ground under cultivation, we planted the first apple trees in spring of 1896. We were advised by several who had settled in this section some years before, that it was a waste of time to try growing fruits, especially when depending entirely upon natural rainfall for moisture, that each one who had planted trees before had failed, and that I too would finally have to give up the effort. However, those first trees are still living and doing their share in producing, along with some 600 more apple trees planted near 30 years ago. During this time too, we have been growing currants, gooseberries, raspberries, plums, cherries and grapes in quantities for market; also in the later years have finally found some very good quality pears that continue to live and produce.

I have no secrets in connection with the measure of success that I've made as a dry land fruit grower. One of my principal ambitions has been trying to give information and encouragement to the other fellow, so that he might at least grow enough fruit for his own family needs. I was one of a pioneer family, and seldom had a whole apple for myself to eat at once, when a boy. There is no time in life when fruit tastes quite as good, nor when we need it as much as when we are young and growing. While I cannot become a boy again myself, it always gives me pleasure to see young folks eating fruit, either when working for me, or as visitors at the place. Fruit is not a luxury, but a real necessity in proper diet.

One of the main essentials in growing fruit, is plenty of moisture. The only way this can be had through normal rainfall in sections where it is usually deficient, is by allowing much more than customary space between plants; so that the roots of each may reach far out without coming in competition with others. Soil water is taken up by plants more than by the sun and winds, so it is important that all vegetation be kept out between trees or plants of our choice at all times.

There is no level ground on my place, so we have had to devise means of holding rainfall near where it fell. There is so little that we cannot afford to let any run off; so we have constructed a series of contour ditches, or terraces to hold water where it belongs on hillsides. Some idea of this system is shown by illustration; also note the low heading of trees. No long shanked, sunscalded trees here; but the business parts down where least affected by winds, and are most easily sprayed, pruned and picked; besides coming into bearing earlier, and living longer.

Many orchards and garden places might be improved greatly by the construction of one or more dams or ditches for holding runoff water. One makes a success with growing things about in proportion to the degree of liking, knowledge, and effort that he puts into the work. I write this by way of helping others get ideas of best methods. We are not simply trying to sell nursery stock, but wish each customer to have it become one of his best investments in later years.

You can get a measure of help through joining your State Horticultural Society. North and South Dakota are now combined in issuing a monthly magazine full of helpful articles that goes to each member; and besides this you are entitled to a selection from a goodly list of choice plants; including fruits, flowers, and vegetables. Send one dollar, the annual fee to R. W. Vance, Pierre, S. D.

I write this as a general personal message. I write many letters during the year in reply to those asking information; but in many instances it is impossible to write as fully as I wish doing. We are still interested in the welfare and behavior of our plants after they leave our hands, so I am always very pleased to hear from those who have purchased from us in years past, saying how they have succeeded.

VARIETIES TO PLANT

For the family orchard there should be a few early apples as well as some of the later ripening sorts; but it is usually a mistake to plant many of the early kinds. There should be a variety in crabs, as most in this line are hardy and do well. Plant more Wealthy trees than any other apple sort.

Plums, and small fruits such as currants and gooseberries, are easily grown and come into bearing early.

I like having the customer make his own selections as much as possible when ordering; but in case of his being undecided we are always pleased to make selections for him. In such cases simply tell us something about your soil and location; and if you have some fruits planted already, tell us as near as you can what they are so we will not duplicate in those too much.

I advise choosing one and two year old stock for general planting. Exception to this rule is alright where few trees are being set. Small stock costs less, is easily planted, makes quick recovery in starting new growth, and is easily trained in starting a head at any desired height.

PLANTING

Early spring is the best time to plant in the dry northwest. Apple trees should be planted not less than 30 feet apart each way, so as to allow for spread of roots in search of moisture as the tree grows larger, without coming into competition with the roots of other trees. Plums do not require so much space, but should have near 20 feet each way. Smaller fruits and shrubbery do not need so much space between, but it is always wise to allow plenty. A good general guide is to have in mind that the roots of a plant always reach as far in all directions as the plant may grow to in height, so allow enough space that each may still do well after reaching a mature age and size. In the beginning of an orchard, one row of small fruits may be set midway between each two rows of apple trees,

to be dug out some ten or twelve years later on, when the trees may have reached the size to require all the moisture that falls between. But do not plant two rows between, or fill up all vacant space with garden stuff, as an excuse for cultivation. Keep in mind that moisture is taken up mainly by growing things, and if you get too many plants on the ground there will not be enough for the trees; especially a margin of moisture left in fall to carry the trees over winter. Never allow weeds to grow at any time of year.

Trees should be planted an inch or two deeper than the collar mark shows they were in the nursery. The finished planting surface should be left rather sloping towards the tree, and the rows should never be ridged through the process of plowing and cultivating in after years. All limbs of newly set trees should be cut back about two thirds of the last years growth.

ORDER EARLY

The nursery stock that you get from us is all grown at home. By doing this way we know that everything is true to name, and that each fruit tree has a hardy root system. We do not practice the common custom of buying at wholesale from other nurseries in lines we run short in. When a variety is sold out that is the end of it till another supply can be grown. When your order reaches us early, you still have time to send elsewhere if we reply that we are sold out in certain items.

PARCEL POST

Those living at a distance from an Express Office can get very good service by parcel post. It is very convenient to send the smaller sizes this way; and by cutting the tops of larger stock back as it should be after planting, we can send fairly large sizes. Those ordering this way should make allowance for postage.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Five of one kind, and ten of not over three varieties, at ten rates. Fifty allowed at hundred rates; but not over five varieties allowed in each fifty. Where long lists of one or two of a kind are wanted, they must be paid for at single rates. No orders booked or shipped until paid for in full. Send enough money to cover cost of sizes and varieties of your choice, and say if you will allow us to substitute other sizes and varieties for any we may be out of. It is not our intention to substitute without permission, though we sometimes do this with orders sent so late that there is not time left for delay writing about it. If very particular that each item be according to order, please mention this. Any balance due a customer is returned not later than date of filling his order. We do not try keeping a balance by suggesting that the customer take something he has not asked for. Each one is notified by letter at the time his stock is sent, whether by mail or express. If there is any complaint at the time you receive stock, notify me at once. We do not replace "free" nor at "half price" but we do try making our mistakes good.

Address all orders to John Robertson, Box 237, Hot Springs, South Dakota.

VARIETIES AND PRICE

APPLES AND CRABS—Named in order of ripening; Yellow Transparent, Anoka, Duchess, Wealthy, McIntosh, and Gano; and the crabs: Whitney, Dolgo, Olga, Sugar, and Linda Sweet. The Dolgo, and Olga are best for jellies.

We have a few trees each of Lobo, Melba, ~~Orleans, Earlham, and Joan~~ that we think are some of the best in new apples.

2 to 3 feet size, 25c each; per 10, \$2.00; per 50, \$9.00

3 to 4 feet size, 35c each; per 10, \$3.00; per 50, \$13.50

4 to 6 feet size, 50c each; per 10, \$4.50; per 50, \$20.00

PEARS—We have a few 2-3 feet size trees in Tait No. 1; Minnesota No. 1; and Patten, at 35c each.

CHERRIES—We have the common red, and black to offer in 2-3 feet size at 35c each; per 10, \$3.00. Larger sizes at 50c each; per 10, \$4.50.

PLUMS—We have the Opata, Oka, ~~and Zumbra~~ in sand cherry hybrids, named in order of our estimation in value. Two or more sorts should be planted, in order to fertilize and bear well. ~~We have a few trees of the select, fine quality sand cherry, Champa.~~ We have some stock in Tecumseh, ~~Minnesota, No. 194,~~ Waneta, that are choice kinds of real plums; also a few in each of several other new varieties. *Minn. No. 83.*

2 to 3 feet size, 40c each; per 10, \$3.50

3 to 5 feet size, 50c each; per 10, \$4.50

GRAPES—We have the Monitor, Dakota, and SUELTEER, named in order of ripening, and hardy without winter cover. Price 25c each, per 10, \$2.00. These are strong growers, bearing medium sized fruit, very good for jellies.

CURRENTS—We offer Wilder, Diploma, ~~and Minnesota No. 24,~~ all being of the largest and best quality fruit. Price 20c each; per 10, \$1.50.

GOOSEBERRIES—The Carrie is a medium sized heavy bearing kind. The Josselyn is large in berry and does well. ~~The Kataga is a new one from Dr. Hansen, that is an extra strong grower, producing large berries, sweet when ripe.~~ Price of large strong plants, 20c each; per 10, \$1.50.

RASPBERRIES—The Latham has been our leading market kind for a number of years. We also have a good start in the new Chief, which is a heavy bearer starting to ripen a week ahead of Latham. Both of these are red. We have some plants of a new black seedling that originated on the place, and is proving superior to all other blacks we have tried. Price of all raspberries; each, 10c; per 10, 75c; per 25, \$1.25; per 50, \$2.00; per 100, \$3.50.

STRAWBERRIES—We usually have some plants, but not often enough to spare above local demand.

ROSES—We have the Tetonkaha, and Harrison's Yellow, both hardy without winter protection. Price 40c each; per 10, \$3.50.

SIBERIAN, OR FLOWERING ALMOND—This is a low growing shrub, having pretty pink flowers very early in spring. Very desirable for low hedge and ornamental purposes. Price 25c each; per 10, \$2.00.



This View Shows Low Heading of Trees